(i) Thirty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs (Departments of Economic Affairs and Expenditure).

(ii) Fortieth Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs (Department of Revenue).

(iii) Forty-first Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs (Department of Company Affairs).

(iv) Forty-second Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Disinvestment.

(v) Forty-third Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Planning.

(vi) Forty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

FAREWELL TO RETIRING MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we bid farewell to S/Shri S.Ramachandran Pillai, C.O. Poulose and J.Chitharanjan, Members of this House from the State of Kerala, who are retiring today on expiration of their term of office. As Members of this House, they made valuable contributions to the proceedings of the House through their mature and seasoned participation on many memorable occasions. I am sure they will cherish the memory of their association with the august House and will have a sense of fulfilment. I hope they will continue to serve the nation with the same vigour and earnestness as they did as Members. I would like to place on record my appreciation and thanks for the courtesy shown by them to me. I wish them good health, happiness and success in every sphere of life.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we, in the Congress Party, fully share the sentiments you

have expressed about three of our very senior dear colleagues. They have been a tower of strength to our House. As leaders of their respective parties, they, of course, were the forceful advocates of their points of view. But, it must also be said to their credit that on major issues of national importance, our colleagues took a wider national perspective. They have made an outstanding contribution to the work of this House and I sincerely hope that it will not be long before they come back to this House. Even if they are not here, our best wishes are with them for a most fruitful, productive and long public career in the service of the people of India.

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज) : सभापति जी आज केरल राज्य से निर्वाचित हमारे 3 सांसद साथी रिटायर हो रहे हैं। ये वे साथी हैं, संसद की कार्यवाही में जिनका योगदान बहुत उच्च कोटि का रहा है। विषय को प्रस्तुत करते समय इन्होने बहुत तर्कपूर्ण और सारगर्भित बातें सदन में रखी हैं। जब कभी भी इस सदन में महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर की गई चर्चाओं की जानकारी लोग लेंगे तो उसमें पिल्लै जी का नाम, चितरंजन जी का नाम हर बहस में देखा जाएगा।

सभापति जी, सदन की खूबसूरती यह है कि इस सदन के अंदर हम भले ही विचारधाराओं से बंधकर अपनी बात कहते हैं लेकिन व्यक्तिगत मित्रता में वे विचारधाराएं कभी आड़े नही आती। सदन से बाहर निकलते ही हम लोग इकट्ठे बैठकर कॉफी पीते हैं, बतियाते हैं और एक-दूसरे के सुख-दु:ख के साझेदार होते हैं। अगर कभी एक-दूसरे के साथ कहीं जाने का या सफर करने का मौका मिलता है तो हमे एक-दूसरे को समझने और जानने का भी मौका मिलता है। मैं आज यह बात कहना चाहूंगी कि मुझे राष्ट्रपति जी के साथ चीन जाने का एक मौका मिला। श्री रामचन्द्रन पिल्लै जी भी उस प्रतिनिधिमंडल के सदस्य थे। वहां जिन दो-दो लोगों को कार की साझेदारी करनी थी, उसमें भी मेरी साझेदारी पिल्लै जी के साथ थी। आज जब उनके रिटायरमेंट की बात हो रही है तो मैं बैठे-बैठे सोच रही थी कि उनके पूरे व्यक्तित्व से प्रभावित होकर एक दिन मैंने कहा था कि पिल्लै जी, कामरेड, अगर यही कम्युनिज्म है तो फिर किसी को भी कम्युनिस्ट होने में आपत्ति नहीं होगी। इतने सोफ्ट स्पोकन, इतने दरियादिल, एक बहुत बेहतर व्यक्तित्व के रूप में मैंने उन्हें पाया था। लेकिन यह सदन एक निरंतर प्रवाहमान सदन है गंगाजल की तरह, कुछ जल आता है कुछ चला जाता है, कुछ फिर वापिस आता है। मैं बहुत शुभकामनाएं देती हूं अपने इन सभी साथियों को। चितरंजन जी हमेशा पार्टी लीडर के तौर पर लीडर से उठ कर भी इस सदन में अपनी बात कहते रहे हैं और जिसे कहते हैं कि जब वह बोलते थे तो हम हमेशा कहते थे कनविक्शन से कोई बोल रहा है, आंतरिक निष्ठा से कोई बोल रहा है। आज ऐसे साथी जा जरूर रहे हैं, लेकिन सदन से जा रहे हैं। उनका सार्वजनिक जीवन बहुत बड़ा है। मैं यह भी शुभकामना करूंगी कि वे वापिस आएं, वापिस आकर सदन की शोभा बढ़ाएं। लेकिन जहां रहें खुश रहें, आबाद रहें। धन्यवाद।

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLAH (Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. Today we will be bidding

farewell from this House to three very eminent Members, Shri Ramachandran Pillai, Shri Poulose and Shri Chitharanjan. I must say, as a Presiding Officer, I had no problems with them at all. They never walked into the well; they never shouted. And, I don't think they have the capacity to shout like some of the Members who always tend to raise their voices...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who are those Members?

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLAH: But they, definitely, put their words even in the softest possible manner very effectively, and that proves that you can prove your point without making noise in the House, but you have to be specific about the subject and you should have the commitment for it. I know, they won't be here from tomorrow. But we are sure they would come back because this House is a continuing process. You can always come back, could be, maximum, in the next two years. Or, maybe, after the Bill, which the Law Minister has brought before us, is passed in the other House, you can come earlier also from any other State; no problem. But we will, definitely, miss you, and we hope, wherever you are, you would be doing whatever good work you have been doing for the people, for the country, according to your own conviction and commitment. We wish you all the best and hope that you would be visiting us some time. My room is always there...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: And, have a cup of tea.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLAH: Anything - lunch, dinner, tea or breakfast. Wish you all the best, and thank you for the cooperation you gave to the Chair during your stay in this House.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And, I thank all of you for the kind words said about my colleagues and me. I am a whole time political worker for the last 40 years, and this is only a small shift in giving priorities. From tomorrow onwards, I will be giving more time to the political work outside Parliament. I can't claim that I have been concentrating more on Parliamentary work. But I had been mainly coordinating our team's work, interacting with the political leaders here and interacting with the political parties.

Sir, the last 12 years taught me many great lessons. The speeches that have been made here, the Reports that we have prepared and the documents we received from various sources were all rich, gold mines of information. On certain occasions, I sat overwhelmed by the richness of the interventions made by you all, the debating skill you have expressed here and, above all, the democratic culture of give and take. That is more important.

All these lessons have enriched my understanding and will certainly help me in my political activities in future. I am sure, Sir, the democratic polity, which we have, here in India, is something very unique. We have diversities, big differences, but, still the democratic polity is bringing us together in the culture of give and take, and the evolution of having a consensus is slowly gaining ground. Sir, the future of our country, the future of our people, particularly the common people, depend on how far we will be successful in strengthening this democratic process. I thank you all for the help, which you have given me, in the past. We will certainly meet in the political arena. We are all working together, we may be having different views, but for the future of the country, for the well-being of the common people of this country, we all share the same views. I, once again, thank you all.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN (Kerala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank all of you for the kind words that you have expressed about myself and also my colleagues, who retire today. Sir, for the last six years, I have been in this House, and it was a great experience for me. Of course, I have been in the political field and the trade union field for a long time. I have also been in the State Legislature for three terms. But the experience that I have gained here is great for me. I do not want to go into more details. Here, in this House, the Members belong to various political streams, and there are very eminent personalities in various fields, and, therefore, that reflects in the discussion that takes place here. And that was a very great experience. Sir, during this period, we have somehow protected and maintained the democratic set up in our country. Sir, since Independence, we have been maintaining this democratic set up for more than 50 years (half-a-century) whereas in various other countries, in the whole of Asia or South-East Asia, the military dictatorship have come in; the democratic set up have failed, but at the same time, somehow or the other, we survived. It is a great tribute to all the people here and also to the political parties. Now, of

course, new trends will always be there. I hope that the Parliamentary system in our country will be able to face the challenges and try to save the country and lead the country forward. Sir, I am very grateful to all the three Chairmen - first, to begin with, Mr. K.R. Narayanan was the Chairman; then Mr. Krishna Kant was the Chairman and now you yourself are the Chairman - because since I have come as a Member of this House, all of them have been very considerate to me in allowing me to intervene in the debates and also to raise certain other issues whenever required.

The Deputy Chairperson continued to be there all along, for six years, without any change. She has also been very kind to me, and very cooperative too. I am grateful to her for that. The Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the House and the various Ministers cooperated in my work in various fields; but I do not want to go into the details. I am very thankful to all of them. Then, all the Members belonging to various political parties also cooperated with me to the fullest extent possible. Most of them have been considerate towards me, and, sometimes, they have been affectionate too. I am grateful to all the colleagues here who have cooperated with me during these last six years. They have all been very fair to me in their dealings.

Finally, I have to say, as I have said it in the beginning also, that I have been in the political field as a full-timer since 1948, which means I have already crossed half-a-century. Now, of course, I am holding certain very responsible positions in the Communist Party of India, and I am also in the All India Trade Union Congress. Therefore, even though I leave this House, I have got enough opportunity to serve the nation in the best possible manner, which I will continue to do.

With these words, I once again thank all my colleagues.

SHRI C. O. POULOSE (Kerala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been a Member of this House for the last five years. I was elected because of a mid-term vacancy, and so my term was to be only for five years. Sir, during this period, I have had many occasions to understand and know about the functioning of the Government, the various Ministries and Departments. This has greatly increased my capacity to understand the Indian political system, and this will naturally help me in my future activities as a political activist. My work in the House has been very successful

because of the cooperation from the hon. Chairman, the Deputy Chairperson, the Vice-Chairmen, the leaders of various political parties and all my colleagues. I thank all of them wholeheartedly in this moment of my retirement from this House. Thank you.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

Alleged victimisation of political opponents in Uttar Pradesh

प्रो. रामगोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, मैं एक बहुत ही गंभीर मसले पर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं। उत्तर प्रदेश में विरोध की राजनीति करने वाले लोगों का जीवन असुरक्षित हो गया है।

श्रीमन्, लोकतंत्र में अगर विपक्ष नहीं है तो लोकतंत्र को लोकतंत्र नहीं कहा जा सकता, वह डिक्टेटरशिप में तबदील हो जाता है। जिस चीज़ का बहाना लेकर उत्तर प्रदेश में प्रमुख विपक्षी दल और अन्य विपक्षी लोगों को प्रताड़ित किया जा रहा है, मुख्यमंत्री विवेकाधीन कोष के नाम पर - 1980 से ही इसके लिए नियमावली है। उसमें समय-समय पर संशोधन होते रहे हैं और शुरू से लेकर अब तक देखा जाए तो लगभग हर मुख्यमंत्री ने एक ही तरीके से विवेकाधीन कोष का प्रयोग किया है। सी.ए.जी. ने उसकी जांच भी की है और अपनी रिपोर्ट भी दी है। उस रिपोर्ट को भी अगर आप देखें तो शुरू से लेकर अब तक जो ऐतराज़ भी किए हैं, वह हर कार्यकाल के एक जैसे हैं। लेकिन इसके बावजूद selective way में एक मुख्यमंत्री को single out करना और टेक्नीकल आधार पर कुछ मामलों में मुकदमा कराना, एक साथ ही... सर, मैं आपका ध्यान इसलिए आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि 3 जून, 1995 के बाद जब मुलायम सिंह मुख्यमंत्री नहीं रहे, उसके बाद से लेकर अब तक जो मौजूदा मुख्यमंत्री हैं, इससे पहले वे दो बार मुख्यमंत्री रह चुकी हैं। इस बार भी मुख्यमंत्री बने हुए लगभग एक वर्ष हो चुका है। पहले भी जांचें हुई और जिला अधिकारियों ने तीन-तीन बार रिपोर्ट भेजी कि जो पैसा जहां गया उसका सदुपयोग हुआ है। केवल एक केस ऐसा आया जिसमें सीएजी और जिला मैजिस्ट्रेट ने भी रिपोर्ट लिखी, जिस पर यह आरोप लगा कि उसने फंड का मिसयूज किया है - महात्मा ज्योतिबा फूले ट्रस्ट, मुजफ्फरनगर के चेयरमैन ने। सौभाग्य या दुर्भाग्य से वे मौजूदा मंत्रिमंडल, उत्तर प्रदेश में कैबिनेट मंत्री हैं जिन पर आरोप लगा। इसके अलावा एक भी केस नहीं है। जब समाजवादी पार्टी के लोगों ने कुछ विधायकों ने, उत्तर प्रदेश के महामहिम राज्यपाल को उत्तर प्रदेश की मुख्यमंत्री के संबंध में दो सीडी, अलग-अलग समय पर दीं, इसके बाद माननीय मुख्यमंत्री जी अपने धैर्य को खो बैठीं। सारे हिन्दुस्तान ने देखा कि समय-समय पर, इसके बाद उन्होंने जिस तरह की धमकी दी-सत्ता के शिखर पर बैठा हुआ अगर कोई व्यक्ति इस तरह की धमकी देता है तो तमाम कमजोर अधिकारी ऐसे होते हैं जो उसी लाइन पर अपने आप चलने लगते हैं। 13 मार्च को माननीय मुख्यमंत्री जी ने कहा कि मैं दलित की बेटी नहीं अगर मुलायम सिंह को सबक नहीं सिखाया। इसके बाद कहा कि पर्दाफाश रैली की जाएगी और रैली हुई। लेकिन जब कुछ नहीं